



## Incentives for Serving God

**M**ost are familiar with these chilling words from Satan to God about Job: *"Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face."* (Job 1:9-11)

Satan's charge was that Job was only serving God because God protected him, but once that protection was removed, Job would not be so eager to serve. Job kept his integrity, though he suffered greatly. This challenge is not lost on us today, for we need to assess our own motives in serving the Lord. When we are faced with struggles and begin questioning our circumstances, will we still be dedicated in our service to the Lord?

What is the Christian's incentive in serving God? Is it the reward of being with God in heaven? Is it the avoidance of hell? Is it Both? Is there more? There is no denying that both reward and punishment serve as motivators. Yet, while we would never deny that we ought to want to be with God, and we should want to avoid hell at all costs, there is more to be considered. Following are three more ways to think about proper incentives in serving God:

### Love

Our first incentive is founded upon love. *"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). When we recognize His love for us and how much He has done for us out of His grace and love, we should respond with love. This is only proper. The incentive here is not

one of reward or punishment, but more that of humble submission in response to God's grace. The *"greatest commandment"* is to love God with all the heart, soul, strength, and mind (Mark 12:29-30). This means that we choose to obey Him as a recognition of His grace toward us, as Jesus stated to His disciples: *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"* (John 14:15).

### Fear

A second incentive is based upon fear. The biblical directive is to *"fear the Lord."* The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Prov 1:7; 9:10), and is called *"the whole of man"* (Ecc 12:13-14). While fear (in the trembling sense) is involved in wanting to avoid hell, the fuller sense of *"fear"* involves reverence. If we recognize who God really is, as the glorious Creator worthy of all praise, we will know that we must honor and revere Him out of sheer respect. The incentive is to do what is right, and this will entail giving proper honor particularly to the One who deserves it the most. Out of respect for God, we must fear Him, and this fear will mean that we will desire to obey Him.

### Gratitude

A third incentive, much related to the first, is grounded upon gratitude. Gratitude is the quality or attitude of thankfulness, and this stems from being appreciative for what someone has done. Given all that God has done, from giving us life to providing the life of salvation, how can we not be thankful to Him? We are to be *"...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Eph 5:20).

# Faithful at ALL Times

*"Moreover it is required in stewards,  
that a man be found faithful."  
(1 Corinthians 4:2)*

**A**re you faithful? When the times get tough,  
can you be counted on?

Today there is a serious lack of genuine integrity and faithfulness among God's children. This is a travesty. Man's words mean little today, whether it's a marriage contract or a business contract. Even a treaty between nations doesn't seem to hold true. Our faithfulness is the fundamental basis of character. We will never know God's blessing apart from faithfulness.

When you are gone, will people say you were faithful? Faithful to your family? Faithful to your friends? And most of all, faithful to God? ❏

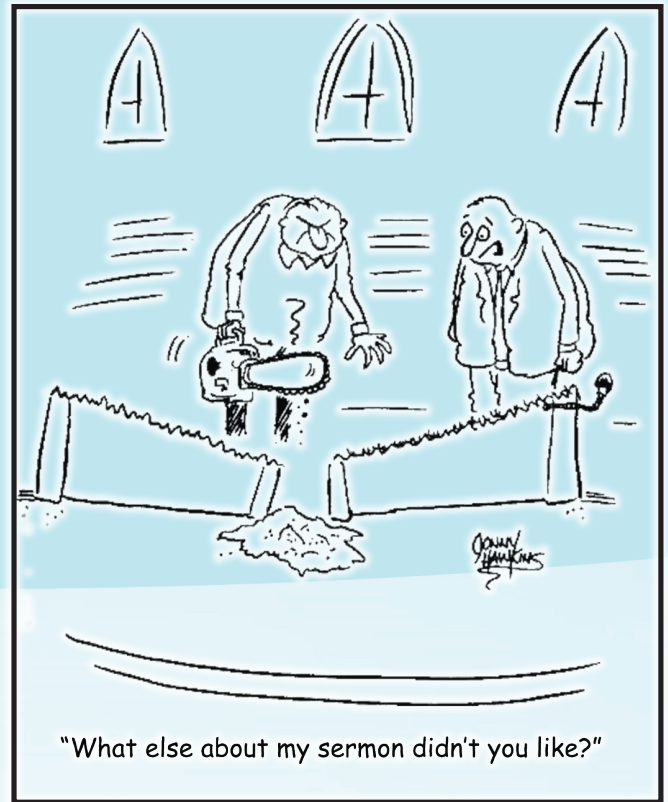
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Being thankful is not based on wanting a reward, nor is it based on the fear of punishment. It is, instead, based on the appreciation that someone has done something wonderful for us. In this case, God has, through His grace, done for us what we could never do for ourselves. If this does not elicit gratitude from us, what will? Perhaps this is why those who do not honor God or give thanks become futile in their thinking (Rom 1:21). Our response to God's grace is based not only on love, but also on thankfulness. If we cannot respond this way, we don't want forgiveness or salvation.

Instead of framing the incentive question in terms of reward and punishment (both of which are very real), perhaps we should focus as much on showing love, reverence, and gratefulness for God and His work. This is not simply a duty, but a grand privilege. *"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"* (1 Thess 5:16-17). ❏

**-Doy Moyer**

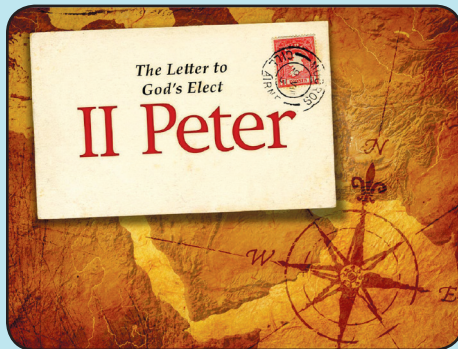


## Confirm Your Calling

### A Class for Growing Christians Who are Living the Qualities of Christ

## After 3 PM Service for 20 minutes

*"Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election,  
for if you practice these qualities you will never fall." (2 Peter 1:10 ESV)*



## A Ready Reminder

(2 Peter 1:12-15)

**Introduction:** When a person faces impending death, their mind usually turns to thinking about things most important to them. For example, when Jesus knew His death was imminent, His prayer in John 17 reveals that the unity of believers was a great concern to Him (Jn 17:20-21). From our text for this lesson, it is evident that the apostle Peter knew his time on earth was short. What sort of things were on the mind of Peter at this time?

### LORD'S SUPPER MEDITATION

### Why Did Jesus Come to Die? ...To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

"Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look." (1 Peter 1:10-12 ESV)

#### I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Ministry (v. 12a, 15)

- A) Peter's concern for these brethren
  - 1. He does not want to be negligent in reminding them.
  - 2. He thinks it proper to remind them (v. 13).
  - 3. He wants to ensure that they are reminded after his death (v. 15).
- B) Frequent reminding can "stir up"
  - 1. Peter's concern is not a reflection on their present condition.
  - 2. But there is always the need to "stir up"
- C) Many ways to be reminded or "stirred up"
  - 1. Through frequent assembling w/ other Christians (Heb. 10:24-25).
  - 2. Through daily Bible reading – this is how Peter continues to remind us after his death - cf. 2Pe 1:15

#### II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Ministry (v. 12b)

- A) People do already know some things .
- B) Peter believes they are "established" in the truth.
- C) See his gracious confidence and trust in what they know and believe.
- D) Romans 10:8; Colossians 1:3-6; 2 John 1:1-2

#### III. The \_\_\_\_\_ in Ministry (v. 13)

- A) Peter understood he had a job and responsibility.
  - 1. "These things" (2 Peter 1:12, 15)
  - 2. What are "these things" that Peter is so concerned about? (2 Peter 3:18)
  - 3. It's obvious that "growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ" (vs. 5-11) should be of most importance to a Christian!

#### IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Ministry (v. 14)

- A) The body is a "tent"
  - 1. Peter views his body as a "tabernacle" (KJV) or "tent" (NKJV)
  - 2. In other words, a temporary housing for his "inner man" which continues after death (cf. Mt 10:28; 2 Cor. 5:1-8).
- B) Death is "putting off the tent" and "an exodus" (Jn 21:18-19)

**Conclusion:** What a privilege it must have been for those Christians in the first century who were around Peter as his end drew near! To receive counsel from one who knew our Lord intimately, and served Him long and faithfully. Will we take advantage of these words and allow his "reminders" to stir us up?

## We Are the Sermon (2 Corinthians 2:14—3:3)

**Introduction:** What makes people want to hear a sermon? Nothing, right? Are people usually ready to hear the sermons of Jesus, Peter, Paul, James and other New Testament writers?

The word of God is essential. It is the only way to come to faith in Christ (Romans 10:17). Yet, most people will not simply pick up a Bible and start reading. It may well be what they see first will cause them to glorify God and want to know His word (Matt. 5:16).

As Christians we need to realize that we are the living example of one who is a saint, disciple, believer and brother in Christ. To begin some may not want to come sit down and hear a sermon. But, if we are in Christ we are the sermon to those around us. To be an effective sermon we must...

### I. \_\_\_\_\_ Bad Examples & \_\_\_\_\_ Teachers

- A) 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- B) Deuteronomy 18:9
- C) 2 Peter 2
- D) 2 Timothy 4:3-4

### II. \_\_\_\_\_ Good Examples

- A) Jehoshaphat king of Judah (2 Chronicles 17:1-6).
- B) Prophet of the Old Testament (James 5:10).
- C) Jesus (John 13:12-17; 1 Peter 2:21; Matthew 16:24).
- D) Paul (Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9).
- E) Timothy (1 Timothy 4:12).
- F) Titus (2:7).

### III. Become a \_\_\_\_\_ Example

- A) Could we be like the Thessalonian Christians (1 Thess. 1:6-10)?
- B) From the beginning Jesus called on His disciples (followers, learners) to be effective in this world (Matthew 5:13-16).
- C) Because we have changed by putting off the old man and putting on the new (Eph. 4:17-32)...
- D) We now imitate God and walk a sermon worth seeing (Eph. 5:1-8).

**Conclusion:** We are the sermon. We are "The World's Bible." What does the world see and hear from what you are preaching?



## Are You Searching for a Church?



*"Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." - Matt. 16:18*

A church is built on these four things that begin with the letter B.

**The Book-** the inspired, infallible Word of God.

**The Blood-** the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Birth-** the new birth.

**The Blessed Hope-** the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God tells us in Hebrews 10:25, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* He wants us to find a scriptural church and connect with the people there.

If you're looking for a church, find out if they take a stand on the Book, the Blood, the Birth, and the Blessed Hope.

If they don't, keep looking.



## Continue to Pray for...

### Shut In Members:

Marjorie Dodge  
Grace Singleton

Stacie Rothrock

Allison Unruh  
Diana Williams

### Friends & Family:

John Dillon  
Kay Gegenheimer  
Ray Gilbert  
Jan King  
Joyce Manning

### Philippine Evangelists:

Leonido  
Balballoza  
Vicente Cay  
Edwin de Pedro  
David N. Varona

**ELDERS & DEACONS**  
Meeting Today  
@ 2:00 PM

*Daughters of the KING*  
Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5 pm

Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 PM  
**Ladies BIBLE STUDY**

**MEN'S MORNING-IN-THE-WORD**  
SATURDAY 9 AM  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Please Remember*

**TO SILENCE YOUR  
CELL PHONE  
DURING SERVICE**

### THIS WEEK

<b>Barker</b> November 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dowling</b> November 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Loughmiller</b> November 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mitchell</b> November 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Scott</b> December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Stout</b> December 10 <sup>th</sup>
Keehn Loughmiller, B. Woolbright, Randol	Barker, Ashlyn Keehn Michell Sieg, Don	Dooley Schoenbaechler Shaffer Woolbright, Ryan	Buchanan Hudson Sieg-Swank	Bailey Miller Sieg, Donny Culver	Loughmiller, N. Maudlin McKinney Woolbright, D.

### NOVEMBER SERVANTS

**Building Cleaning & Communion:**  
Barker & Stout

**Benevolence Organizers:**  
C. Loughmiller & Maudlin



### NOVEMBER

1 - Desirae Miller B'day  
2 - Tim & Mary Beth Maudlin ANN.  
4 - Donny & Jennah Sieg ANN.  
7 - Valerie Sieg B'day  
7 - Gabriel Sieg B'day  
11 - Benny Loughmiller B'day  
11 - Evan Michell B'day  
16 - Dave Michell B'day  
18 - Ethan Loughmiller B'day  
21 - Shannon Shaffer B'day  
23 - Erin Mitchell B'day  
23 - Evan Mitchell B'day  
30 - Scott Mitchell B'day

**BIRTHDAYS  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**CHURCH of CHRIST**  
at Galena

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

### THIS WEEK

#### Sunday AM (11/05)

**Announcements:** Bill Buchanan

**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer:** Tim Maudlin

**Song Leader:** Dale Woolbright

**Lord's Table:** Shanon Miller (Lead)  
T. Sieg, A. Maudlin, K. Dowling

**Sermon:** Shannon Shaffer

**Closing Prayer:** Gus Schoenbaechler

#### Sunday PM (11/05)

**Announcements:** Bill Buchanan

**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer:** Jim Hudson

**Song Leader:** Don Sieg

**Lord's Table:** Shanon Miller (Lead)  
T. Sieg

**Sermon:** Shannon Shaffer

**Closing Prayer:** Benny Loughmiller

#### Wednesday (11/08)

**Announcements:** Donny Sieg

**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer:** Randy Scott

**Song Leader:** Jonathan Maudlin

**Invitation:** Luke Dooley

**Closing Prayer:** Randol Woolbright

### NEXT WEEK

#### Sunday AM (11/12)

**Announcements:** Dale Woolbright

**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer:** Luke Dooley

**Song Leader:** Dylan Culver

**Lord's Table:** Kyle Dowling (Lead)  
K. Keehn, Donny Sieg, M. Loughmiller

**Sermon:** Shannon Shaffer

**Closing Prayer:** Daryn Barker

#### Sunday PM (11/12)

**Announcements:** Dale Woolbright

**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer:** Randol Woolbright

**Song Leader:** Ryan Woolbright

**Lord's Table:** Kyle Dowling (Lead)  
K. Keehn

**Sermon:** Shannon Shaffer

**Closing Prayer:** Nick Loughmiller

#### Wednesday (11/15)

**Announcements:** Michael Stout

**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer:** Jonathan Maudlin

**Song Leader:** Seth Shaffer

**Invitation:** Tim Maudlin

**Closing Prayer:** Shanon Miller

### Shepherds:

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# CHURCH of CHRIST at Galena

Lifeline

### Meeting at

5466 Featheringill Road  
Greenville, IN 47124

### Sunday

Worship: 9:00 AM

Bible Classes: 10:00 AM

Worship: 3:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes: 7:30 PM

### Website

[http://churchofChrist  
inGalena.com](http://churchofChristinGalena.com)